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Educating the American Teacher

By WILLIAM F. RUSSELL

Dean of Teachers College, Columbia University

We need a new charter for teacher education. We need a comprehensive vision of the problem as a whole. There should be appointed a National Commission, provided with ample funds, so that there would be no obstacle to complete study and report. It should have such competence as to be able to influence the authorities of the several states and stir the ambitions of our people.

In the future, we must have either control from the outside, which is force; or control from the inside, which is education, the means for which must be widely extended and highly effective. This is an ancient ideal; but there has always been more theory than practice. It is also a modern goal. At the moment many educators are advocating guiding or changing the social order by education.

There may be a fundamental difference between an educated individual and an educated teacher. A college graduate may have thorough knowledge of his subject, yet he may not have the essential background of teaching. The well-educated all-round human being may not be a well-educated all-round teacher. It would be an accident if he were.

The education of the teacher for the schools of tomorrow must take well into account the new knowledge of the child, the new knowledge of the problems of society, and the new investigations, researches, experiments with new types of schools, new processes of instruction, and new materials and methods with which to work. No institution can do it all, or any large part. The goal should be to make certain that all prospective teachers are "on the way."

It has been stated that we have no clear-cut philosophy of education in America. I think we have; and it comes from the parents. The American people build and support schools to give their children a chance, to develop their capabilities to the utmost, to put them in that position in life where they can do the most good or exercise the most influence, or enjoy the greatest affluence, according to the ideal of the parent in question.

Plans for the education of the teacher must include not only training for the school of today and for the school of tomorrow, but also for the school of America, which should enable every child to develop his personality and his capacity to the full. Special preparation in guidance, in the understanding of human potentialities, and development of skill in arousing and modifying them, I confidently predict will become an essential part of the education of the American teacher.

The problem of educating the American teacher is one of great complexity and corresponding difficulty. Properly to teach in the good school as we know it today requires thorough grounding in the subject matter, usually in more than one field; and special training for teaching, directed toward an understanding of the pupil, an appreciation of the school and what it is for, and knowledge of as well as skill in the processes of instruction.—Excerpted from Annual Report.

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Editorials

Britain Changes Kings

ONE of the most tremendous pieces of world drama has just been enacted before the eyes and ears of mankind—enacted so rapidly that it scarcely seems real.

Abdication of Edward VIII after less than a year as monarch of the foremost empire of modern times, and the quick accession of his brother George on December 11, were caused by perfectly understandable developments of personality and circumstance. We had, on the one hand, the emotional upheaval of a king so much a man that he decided he could no longer bear the burdens of the throne without the companionship of the woman he loved; and that woman, on her part, because of one divorce granted and another pending, not up to the standards demanded by most of the British public for their queen.

The British throne is, after all, little more than a symbol. But its symbolism is the strongest tie that exists to hold the hearts of a half billion people together.

Behind closed doors we may well believe that the king was made to realize how badly might fare the empire were allegiance to the crown to be weakened by a division of sentiment at this time. Britain holds a key position in the preservation of democracy and peace.

The new king is a man of duty; a man who has worked hard to overcome his natural shyness and his difficulties of speech. He holds admiration and affection of his people. He is interested in them and their problems.

Britain has passed swiftly through a stupendous crisis in its national and imperial existence. The empire may emerge the stronger for what has happened.

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German-Japanese Pact

MOMENTOUS outcomes are wrapped up in this new treaty between Germany and Japan which binds the two powers to oppose the spread of communism. Berlin has entered into this pact as if it were concerned with a world mission of the utmost value to mankind.

Naturally enough, Soviet Russia views this close accord of Germany and Japan as deeper in its significance than the mere resolution to check communism and the Moscow Internationale. The two powers in question are believed in Moscow to have aggressive designs against Soviet territory.

But Germany and Japan are trying to make out that they have no designs of that selfish or egotistical sort. They merely regard communism as a devastating political theory and are bent upon reducing the menace, not of Russia, but of the Soviet idea. In proof of its singleness of aim, the Reich invites other powers to join the anti-communism covenant.

From a Western standpoint, it seems that the pot is calling the kettle black. Over here we regard the authoritarian state with almost as much misgiving as we do the communistic. Both ride roughshod over cherished human rights and liberties. Both seek large accomplishment at the cost of weakening the human spirit. We still are foolish enough, or wise enough, to prefer democracy, with all its faults, to dictatorship in either of its present-day manifestations. It is something not to have to talk in whispers about our government, lest we be spirited off to some Soviet court or blood purge.

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Our Most Useless College

IT IS popularly supposed that the voters on November third elected Franklin Roosevelt President, and John Garner, Vice-President. But the two men in question were not really elected at all. Their election was to come later at a meeting of the electoral college—a meeting which few people would ever read about—a meeting which could, conceivably, elect any candidate it wished. At that meeting, however, there would be only one outcome—the carrying out of what the voters directed on election day.

What a farce this electoral college is!

Just glance at the disparity between the popular vote and the electoral vote. In the balloting November 3, Landon received nearly two-thirds as many votes as Roosevelt. Yet the electoral vote, state by state, totals only eight for Landon as compared with 523 for Roosevelt—a ratio not of 65 per cent. but of one sixty-fifth.

Senator Norris is said to have a resolution in his pocket, ready to be launched in Congress, for a constitutional amendment to do away with the electoral college, and to provide, instead, for the direct election by vote of the people.

This would at least eliminate the possibility of a contradiction between the popular vote and the vote by states, each taken as a unit and having a designated number of electoral votes.

Yet there may be advantages in the retention of the electoral vote; advantages which will be sure to be brought out in the course of congressional debate on the Norris resolution, if this is presented.

The electoral college itself is so utterly ridiculous an institution that it may well be junked, even if its system of state-voting were to be continued.

Book Reviews

Typists in Less Time

TYPEWRITING BEHAVIOR. By August Dvorak, Nellie Merrick, William L. Dealey, and Gertrude Catherine Ford. New York, Cincinnati, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, Dallas, San Francisco: American Book Company.

Under the intriguing title of "Typewriting Behavior," the quartet of teachers who prepared this book have made a distinct contribution to effectiveness in the learning of typewriting.

The approach has been both practical and scientific. Traditional methods of teaching are in some cases found at variance with the psychology of the student. For example—why so much insistence on typing without errors—or upon typing without the use of sight to bring fingers upon keys? Why those monotonous warnings against typing too fast, when speed is so greatly to be desired?

The aim of this book is to assist teachers to train typists at a saving of time over present customs in the average school. The authors point out that the acquisition of skill as a typist is the most time-consuming task in the entire curriculum of commercial studies.

A book which offers well tested suggestions for the saving of time in this direction is certain of a welcome not only by teachers of typewriting but by many somewhat mature students who still recognize impediments to their own best functioning.

Especially promising seem to be the suggestions regarding rhythm and the establishment of mental poise, in place of the rigidity which so often results from prevalent procedures in the clicking classrooms.

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Contents Child-Chosen

THE CHILDREN'S OWN READERS. By Mary E. Pennell and Alice M. Cusack, Books 1-6. Boston, New York, Chicago, London, Atlanta, Dallas, Columbus, San Francisco: Ginn and Company.

A reader that 1,500 teachers and 50,000 pupils have helped to make surely is justified in calling itself "the children's own." And what a fine job of picking those children did!

"The Children's Own Readers" contain both informational and literary material of a most intriguing sort. Nothing has been excluded merely because the fathers and mothers of the present generation of school children liked to read it. Nor has any topic which seemed of potential interest to the children been omitted because suitable ready-made description was not at hand.

The composite result is a set of readings having a maximum of joy in them for boys and girls — joy which is delivered through clear type of generous size and through numerous pictures.

Work books have been prepared to accompany the series. The little dictionary at the end of each book should provide a real help to assist the pupil to a full understanding of the stories and should help him to develop his vocabulary.

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Teacher and School

PERSONAL PROBLEMS IN SCHOOL MANAGEMENT. By H. C. Moeller, O. S. Hamer, and F. C. Bowersox. New York and Chicago: Newson and Company.

The beginning teacher and the teacher in training can glean much of value from this text on school management in its personal phases. Between its covers are ably treated a great many of the problems that are constantly calling for solution in the everyday work of the modern school. Classroom procedures of various kinds are described and their values analyzed. Testing and measurement are helpfully presented. The question of individualizing instruction has its due share of suggestion.

There is nothing arbitrary or dictatorial about the book. It expounds a philosophy of education which greatly aids in unifying the various topics covered. On the whole this is a succinct and useful volume—precisely the sort of introduction the novice in teaching ought to have to become intelligently effective and co-operative with the organization and fellow beings who comprise the school.

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Orientation in Science

GENERAL SCIENCE FOR TODAY. By Ralph K. Watkins, Professor of Education, University of Missouri, and Ralph C. Bedell, Professor of Education, State Teachers College, Kirksville, Mo. New York, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Atlanta, San Francisco: The Macmillan Company.

In this revised text, "General Science for Today," we have a decidedly modern and human approach to the fundamentals of chemistry, geology, physics, biology, and astronomy. We see the moving picture of man's progress in controlling his environment for his own comfort. We see man expanding his universe to almost infinite dimensions. We see him peering into an almost fathomless past.

The authors have given sweep and movement to this text. Yet they have made it far from superficial or frothy.

The subject matter is skillfully organized in chapters and units, with questions interspersed.

The pupil studying this book should come away with not only admiration for the achievements of pioneers in science, but a clear understanding of the most important natural laws. He should also acquire something of that scientific attitude which every educated person needs to have.

A textbook in so wide a field as general science is likely to seem incomplete and sketchy. "General Science for Today" manages to seem unified, thorough and comprehensive without being ponderous in size or style.

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Millions Cannot Read

THE PREVENTION AND CORRECTION OF READING DIFFICULTIES. By Emmett Albert Betts, Director of Teacher Education, State Normal School, Oswego, New York. Evanston, New York City, San Francisco: Row, Peterson and Company.

The first handmaiden of learning is the ability to read. This fact has found recognition through a vast amount of research and experimentation in recent years. It is the evident purpose of Dean Betts in "The Prevention and Correction of Reading Difficulties" to gather into convenient compass the most useful results of those investigations, and at the same time to weave them together into a pattern reflecting his own experience and observations in the application of accepted principles to many teaching situations and individual cases.

The worth of such a volume lies in its wealth of serviceable hints for the alert teacher, the teacher with a lively professional interest. Many a teacher would like to know the secrets of turning the slow, non-understanding reader into one who can not only learn to read but read to learn. Dr. Betts supplies just the key to unlock that hidden door for many a child or youth.

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The News Digest
OF EDUCATION

Cultural "Olympics"

Contests Planned to Discover Talent

PHILADELPHIA. — Carrying the idea of athletic competition over into the fields of literature and art, President Gates, of the University of Pennsylvania, announced plans for "cultural Olympics" to be conducted by the university's School of Education.

Its purpose is to promote the cultural interests of individuals and of communities and, although at the outset its scope will be limited to the Philadelphia area, the hope is to see its spread eventually into nation-wide proportions.

The project provides for contests in various fields of self-expression, such as music, arts and crafts, literature, drama, and the dance. The sponsors expect it to stimulate latent talent in cultural pursuits, just as Olympics in sports stimulate the ideal of physical development.

Samuel S. Fleisher, philanthropist and patron of the arts, who founded the Graphic Sketch Club thirty-seven years ago, offered the idea. He has been asserting for years that beauty is as essential a part of life as any other factor, and that, as such, it should be made accessible to all.

Inauguration of cultural Olympics is being made possible by the support of George H. Johnson, president of Lit Brothers, who was so impressed by Mr. Fleisher's views as expressed in a series of radio talks that he offered to finance the project.

The idea of founding a cultural Olympics was so eminently fitted to the great problem of the day, it was explained, that the University of Pennsylvania readily agreed to sponsor the movement.

Anti-Oath Drive

Petition for Repeal Before Legislature

BOSTON.—Repeal of the teachers' oath law will again be sought at the next session of the Legislature by the Massachusetts State Council of Teachers' Union, which waged a vigorous but unsuccessful battle against the measure in the last General Court. There is already one repeal bill on the legislative calendar, filed by Representative Clarence S. Luitwieler, of Newton, indicating that the council will have additional support when the fight is renewed early in the new year. A second petition to expunge the statute enacted in 1935, which requires teachers in all educational institutions in the State to swear allegiance to the Federal and State constitutions, probably will be filed before the Legislature convenes in January, according to Kenneth I. Taylor, legislative agent of the State branch of the American Federation of Labor, with which the teachers' council is affiliated.

Court Upholds Dual School Jobs; Principals and Teachers Affected

NEW YORK.—The Board of Education has no power to oust principals and teachers in the day schools from "double" positions in the evening schools if they previously have received permanent tenure in the evening jobs, the Appellate Division ruled recently. It granted a temporary injunction against the board sought by Thomas H. Hughes, principal of Public School 57, Bronx, and of the New York Evening High School, Manhattan.

The ruling affects directly fifty principals holding day and evening jobs, according to State Senator A. Spencer Feld, counsel for Mr. Hughes, and it would affect also 2,500 teachers in the same category.

The decision granted only a temporary injunction pending trial of Mr. Hughes' suit for a permanent injunction, but the opinion written by Justice Edward S. Sore and concurred in unanimously, declared definitely that the board's resolution purporting to abolish Mr. Hughes' permanent tenure was "unauthorized by law."

The board, in a resolution adopted last June 10, declared as a policy that supervisors, teachers, and other employees in the evening schools did not have permanent tenure and should not be reappointed if they held positions as principals of day schools.

The court said that, although night school teachers do not receive annual salaries but are paid for services actually rendered, they come within the classification of "non-regular employees."

The decision reversed a ruling of Supreme Court Justice Alfred Frankenthaler.

Watch Their Steps

California Schools Stress Road Safety

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Traffic safety education in schools of southern California is emphasized more this year than ever before, reports the Automobile Club of Southern California in a survey revealing the program is reaching 550,000 children in more than 21,000 classrooms. Safety training in southern California schools is now in its sixteenth year. This section is said to be the first in the nation to establish such study, a plan which has been copied in many other parts of the country. In secondary as well as elementary schools the program incorporates safety into numerous courses and activities. Problems in safe conduct are presented in the study of mathematics, art, citizenship, English dramatics, music, geography, visual education, project activities, and other subjects.

Teacher Training

Enrollment Doubled In Brown's Department

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—The success of Brown University's "five-year plan" of teacher preparation is shown by the increasing number of schools which ask the university to supply teachers, and in the high percentage of students trained in education at Brown who now hold responsible positions, Professor C. Emanuel Ekstrom, chairman of the Department of Education, reported. Since this plan of teacher preparation was started, giving students not only knowledge of educational theory but also experience in teaching, the enrollment for training has more than doubled. At the same time, Professor Ekstrom said, positions were virtually assured to all students who satisfactorily completed the training.

Examinations Examined to See Whether They Are Fair Criteria

WASHINGTON. — A nation-wide study of bugaboo questions asked in the elementary school graduating examinations was made recently by Dr. David Segel, United States Office of Education specialist in tests and measurements. The same types of questions are being asked now as years ago. The survey disclosed many interesting facts.

It was found that twenty-one States administer State-wide examinations to pupils at the end of their elementary school period. In some cases the State Department of Education assumes only the preparation of the examination.

The prospective high school student is usually tested in arithmetic, reading, spelling, English, history, civics, geography, physiology, and hygiene. For the most part, locally constructed tests are used.

Based on the findings of the survey, Dr. Segel recommended: a discontinuing of examinations used mainly to determine eligibility for graduation from the elementary school; that there should be flexibility in the testing program of each State, this flexibility to be brought about through legislative authority granted to State boards of education to make rules and regulations regarding standardization and supervision of elementary schools; that where a need for better pupil guidance, knowledge of individual differences, or a check upon efficiency of the curriculum is felt in the States, a testing program should be established; and that the teacher, under the direction of the county superintendent and the State Department of Education, should give and score examinations, scores for different pupils to be made available to the county superintendent for use in compiling average scores by grades and in the supervision of instruction.

Frank G. Pickell

MONTCLAIR, N. J. — Frank G. Pickell, superintendent of Montclair public schools for the last thirteen years and a past president of the New Jersey State Teachers' Association, died here recently. His age was fifty-one. Dr. Pickell was the third Essex County school superintendent to die within a three weeks' period, the others being John L. Logan, of Newark, and Clifford J. Scott, of East Orange.

Success-Minded

Professor Advises Broadening Education

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Higher learning in America is suffering from success rather than from failure, believes Dr. Edward S. Robinson, professor of psychology and chairman of the division of general studies at Yale University. It is the contention of Dr. Robinson that graduate schools must "welcome the impact of outside forces and seek a rejuvenation and enlargement of the ideals of higher learning," if they are to continue to play as important a role in the general advancement of education as in the past. Dr. Robinson feels the American public has been oversold on the Ph.D. degree as the sole label of a scholarly mind. Contending that he has no quarrel with specialized training, he, however, criticizes universities for not also recognizing as scholars those interested in the broad aspects of knowledge already accumulated as well as those students who are devoted to a study of techniques for expanding knowledge.

Dodge School

New York Gypsies Trouble Truant Officers

NEW YORK.—Reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic have no appeal for gypsy children of school age. They would rather learn to peddle needles or to tell fortunes. That is why truant officers assigned to duty in New York City's gypsy settlements are having their troubles at this season. During November thousands of gypsies who have passed the summer and part of the autumn wandering over the country return to their winter encampments and bring their children back under the jurisdiction of the attendance bureau of the New York City schools. About 10,000 gypsies pass four or five months of every year in the shack settlements bordering the city. Walter E. O'Leary, assistant director of the attendance bureau, estimates that among them are well over 1,000 children who should be in school, but only several hundred attend classes regularly. They like school even less than other boys and girls and are adept at avoiding truant officers. They have been practicing at "playing hookey" since they were old enough to crawl.

Schoolboy Patrol

1,200 Maine Youths Promote Safety

AUGUSTA, Me.—More than 1,200 Maine youths have joined the national "schoolboy patrol" movement which has enlisted a total of 250,000 boys and girls throughout the United States in the task of making the highways safe for school children, according to the Maine Automobile Association. As a unit of the parent organization, the Maine patrol is trained to control, direct, and instruct student bodies in the technique of crossing the street and otherwise handling themselves in a way to minimize the hazards encountered by motorists. As a reward for meritorious work along the lines of road safety, fifteen to twenty boys will be sent to the national conference of patrols in Washington next May.

Tildsley Troubled

Secondary Schools And Colleges Convene

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—American high school education is softening and degenerating, Dr. John L. Tildsley, assistant superintendent of New York City schools, told the fiftieth annual convention of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools here recently. The association elected David A. Robertson, head of Goucher College, Baltimore, president. Vice-presidents elected are Walter B. Gage, headmaster of Hackley School, Tarrytown, N. Y.; Ira Chapman, superintendent of schools in Elizabeth, N. J.; E. V. Stanford, president of Villanova College; Professor Florence Bamberger, of Johns Hopkins University, and Chancellor John M. M. Gray, of American University, Washington. George William McClelland, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Stanley R. Yarnell, principal of the Germantown Friends School, Philadelphia, were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

Aid Negroes

Mississippi School Begins 30th Year

PRENTISS, Miss. — Opening its doors for the thirtieth consecutive season, the Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute again offers religious, industrial, and literary opportunities for hundreds of underprivileged Negro youth of this State. This year the school has an enrollment of 370 with eighteen teachers and officers. Most of the students come from adjoining communities and counties. The plant of the Prentiss Institute consists of twelve buildings and trade shops, with over 600 acres of farm and woodland. It takes annually from $20,000 to $30,000 to operate the school. Ninety per cent of this amount is secured from white friends of Negro education throughout the North, East, and West.

Textbook Degree

Many College Men Held Illiterates

KINGSTON, Ont. — The average college student graduates ignorant of everything except textbooks and finishes his college course illiterate, according to E. C. Kyte, librarian of Queens University here. Mr. Kyte suggested that the college librarian must add to his other duties the work of guiding the alumnus in reading because that alumnus fails to take advantage of reading opportunities in his under-graduate days.

Crystal Gazing

Students Have Faith In Fortune Telling

CINCINNATI, O.—College students, too, can be taken in by the fortune-telling racket. Despite higher education primitive superstition is found among both men and girl students, and the men are even more superstitious than the girls. Superstition is found in all walks of life, warn Professors C. M. Diserens and T. W. Wood, of the University of Cincinnati, who report their study of the belief in fortune telling among college students in the current issue of the Journal of Applied Psychology. Belief in fortune telling was revealed by questionnaire filled out by 101 students. Women go to fortune tellers oftener than men, but the men have more faith in them. Only 19 per cent of the women "believed" as compared with 40 per cent of the men.

Readers' Choice

Library Patrons' Trend to Non-Fiction

CHICAGO. — Readers using public libraries in America's largest cities are apparently growing more serious-minded. During the past five years their borrowing of non-fiction books has increased more than 21 per cent, while their borrowing of fiction has gone up only 1 per cent. These figures, compiled by the American Library Association, cover 100,000,000 books circulated in thirty-one cities. At that, they do not include the greatly increased use of books inside library reading rooms where such questions as "Does kerosene rust steel?" and "Can you help me decode a business message?" are answered by hundreds of thousands for patrons in a single city. One other factor has been suggested as contributing to the growing interest in non-fiction. That is the possibility that writers may have recently gained a lighter or a clearer style capable of luring a wider public.

Change Forecast

Plan to Certify Teachers Studied

BOSTON.—James G. Reardon, state commissioner of education, recently appointed a committee of public school superintendents to recommend to the Legislature a plan for the certification of all school teachers in the state. "In view of the fact that Massachusetts is among the few states without a general plan for certification of teachers in the public schools, I believe this subject should be given the immediate attention of the department of education," Reardon said. The committee includes the following school superintendents: Edward J. Russell, of Pittsfield; James F. Peebles, of Bourne; Harvey S. Gruver, of Lynn; Joseph S. Keating, of Montague; Chester D. Stiles, of Westfield; William R. Peck, of Holyoke; Leon M. Orcutt, of Huntington; Burr J. Merriam, of Framingham; Harry A. Brown, of Needham; Charles W. Lawrence, of Kingston, and Patrick T. Campbell, of Boston.

Freedom Urged

Break From College Entrance Suggested

WASHINGTON. — Secondary schools in this country should have a mind and plan of their own and should break away from the leading strings of college entrance requirements. A three-year survey by a committee of the Department of Secondary School Principals of the National Education Association comes in effect to this conclusion. High school courses, the committee believes, should be of many different types, to allow for varied abilities and interests on the part of pupils. They should include a dynamic program of vocational training and should inculcate attitudes and ideals as well as knowledge. Boys and girls who have finished school but who cannot obtain jobs should be under the oversight of a special branch of the State educational system created for the purpose, the report holds.

News Tips

School Editor Swaps Services for Items

BOLIVAR, N. Y. — Miss Helen Hogan, one of the editors of the high school newspaper, believes she has discovered a new way to collect news. She has organized a "personal service" bureau and swaps personal assistance for news stories. "Do you want anything?" asks the last issue of the school paper, The Sentinel. "All you do is submit news items or articles that can be used in The Sentinel and you can get a receipt for any of the following services: 1. We will lend a pen, pencil, ink, paper, eraser, or ruler. 2. We will find out the combination of your locker if you have forgotten it. 3. We will call your mother and tell her you are staying at the school cafeteria for lunch. 4. We will get books from the library for you to make out reports. 5. If you are looking for a person we will help locate him. 6. We will find what your home work assignment is. 7. We will help you find anything you have lost. 8. We will do any other personal service within reason."

Children Get First-Hand View of Way Railroad Trains Operate

AKRON, O.—It was not the California Limited but as far as the pupils of one of the first grades in Akron schools were concerned, it might just as well have been.

Dingy old No. 604 never carried a more eager group of passengers than when seventy-eight children swarmed onto its platform, bound for a trip to Barberton, eight miles from here.

Railroad hands, slouched in overalls in the train yards, straightened up and asked curiously: "Where are all the babies goin'?" as the children, dressed in their best bibs and tuckers, appeared.

"It's a new idea of school teaching," explained the station agent.

George Weber, new supervisor of primary instruction here, hurried about, herding his charges into their proper places. Each child was taught how to buy his own ticket.

As for the youngsters themselves, they stood wide-eyed beneath the big engine. They looked warily at the great wheels and pointed out the intricacies of the cowcatcher to doll babies they had brought along, or to chums holding fast to their hands.

One curly-haired little girl was lifted into the cab, where she was given instructions by the engineer on how trains are run and what makes the wheels go round.

Mr. Weber explained that the children have been building trains and studying them in their classroom for the past month and that the material they gathered on the trip would be used in reading lessons, chart work, and writing lessons in the weeks to come.

End to Drudgery in Schools Is Purpose of Illinois Educators

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—School days in Illinois will no longer be days of confinement and tedious routine, but rather days of joyous and progressive living, according to the plan for curriculum development being worked out by the State Department of Public Instruction under Superintendent John A. Wieland.

Children no longer will be "required" to learn to read or to work problems in arithmetic. Instead, it is claimed, they will want to learn because this knowledge, they will find, is essential to participating in the school group life about them. And civics, history, and geography may be converted from a drudgery of memorizing to an adventure.

The first two steps in curriculum development have been to co-operate with the teachers' training schools of the State in holding summer-time curriculum conferences; and to formulate a tentative curriculum philosophy. This is the beginning of six years of planning for a flexible program which it is hoped will meet the changing needs of students in a changing world. C. C. Stadtman, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, is chairman of the steering committee, to which the sub-committees on aims, institutional co-operation, public relations, student program, and rural education will report.

To prepare the force of 41,000 teachers in the State to think along the lines of the new administration in education, conferences were held at the five state normal colleges, and at the University of Illinois, University of Chicago, and at Northwestern University, Evanston.

Forward-looking educators from all parts of the country took part, bringing with them both theory and methods of practice in those states which already have instigated state-wide curricula. These, mostly Southern states, include Virginia, Arkansas, Texas, Georgia, South Dakota, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

Housing Problem

School Committee Seeks Federal Aid

BOSTON.—The Boston school committee has appealed to the Federal Housing Administration for co-operation in arranging school facilities for the 2,200 children who will live in the Old Harbor Village housing development in South Boston. Means must be found to accommodate the children in the seven available schoolhouses within a reasonable radius of the housing development, said Frederick R. Sullivan, chairman of the committee, in a letter to H. A. Gray, director of housing. The project will demand a realignment of present school districts, Sullivan said.

Strike Won

Pittsburgh Pupils Gain Play-off Demand

PITTSBURGH, Pa.—Three thousand pupils walked out of classes recently and won what they wanted — a play-off between Allegheny and South Hills high school football teams for the leadership of Section 11 and the right to play Westinghouse for the city title. The walkout was started in protest against a previous decision, in which school authorities flipped a coin and awarded the Section 11 championship to Allegheny High.

Meet Salaries

Revere School Funds Transferred

REVERE, Mass. — Acting on the request of Mayor James M. O'Brien the City Council recently ordered transferred $13,169.34 to the school department salaries account and $7,000 to the textbook and supplies account of the school department. The action of the Mayor and Council set at rest reports that difficulties might arise if the necessary funds were not available for school department salaries for the remainder of this year.

Cycle Check-Up

Bicycle Tests Proposed For Newcastle Pupils

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Eng.—Cycle tests for school children are urged in a report made to the Northumberland County Council by the recently formed Children's Safety Committee. The report also suggests that children under seven should not be allowed to walk in the streets unless accompanied by an adult, and that brakes on children's bicycles should be examined periodically by members of the school staffs. The report has been adopted by the County Council, and is to be sent to school authorities, local councils and safety committees.

Safety Note

Girls Less Cautious As Age Increases

BOSTON.—That school girls exercise less caution than boys in avoiding accidents as they advance in years and that one contributing reason for this is their desire to be modish was the statement made to the Randall G. Morris Home and School Association in West Roxbury. James E. Dolan, master of the Beethoven School district, in citing the advances made during the past decade in safeguarding the physical welfare of school children, said that statistics gathered by the School Department show that boys in the kindergarten grades are more prone to accidents than girls but that as the age progresses the picture reverses itself.

Teachers' Oath Legislation Declared as Past the Peak

BOSTON.—Teachers' oath legislation strikes at the foundation of democratic government, since the American system depends upon an enlightened electorate gained through freedom in teaching, Grenville Clark, New York lawyer, told the History Reference Council of Boston recently. Already 500,000 teachers and nearly half the country's 30,000,000 students are affected by such legislation, in twenty-two States, he stated.

Mr. Clark, a graduate and fellow of Harvard College, was one of three considered for presidency of the university after the resignation of President Lowell.

"The fundamental reason for repeal of teachers' oath laws is that they tend to weaken our educational system and thus strike at the strongest support of our democratic institutions," Mr. Clark declared. "While they may seem innocuous in requiring merely a pledge to support the Constitution, the vagueness of this term makes the laws subject to abuse at the hands of ignorant or prejudiced persons.

"It must be remembered that these laws ordinarily do not apply simply to utterances in the classroom but extend to the teacher, outside, in the exercise of his rights as a citizen."

Mr. Clark said continuous and persistent public discussion of the subject is taking place throughout the country. He thought the peak of the movement for restrictions on teachers had passed.

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Drill Continues

Military Training Referendum in Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore. — The initiative measure on the ballot in Oregon proposing a law against compulsory military training in schools and colleges was defeated at the polls. A 7-to-4 decision was registered against it, thus disappointing the hopes of a number of students at the University of Oregon and Willamette University, who by strenuous efforts last Summer obtained the 16,000 signatures necessary to place the measure on the ballot.

Day to Cornell

Rockefeller Foundation Director Named President

ITHACA, N. Y.—Dr. Edmund Ezra Day, director of the social science programs of the Rockefeller Foundation and the general education board, will be the next president of Cornell University, succeeding Dr. Livingston Farrand, who retires on June 30, 1937. The announcement of his election was made by the trustees. The board followed the unanimous recommendation of a joint committee of the faculty and trustees appointed last June. Dr. Day's career in higher education covers a period of thirty years. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, 1905.

Mother and Son

DURHAM, N. H.—A mother and son attend the University of New Hampshire here. Mrs. Georgia Mitchell Geortz, of Alton, is now a senior, while her nineteen-year-old son, Conrad, is a member of the freshman class. During high school days this mother and son attended school at the same time. During those years Mrs. Geortz found sufficient time outside her studies to take care of a family of eight. She completed her high school education in three years. After graduating from the University of New Hampshire next spring Mrs. Geortz plans to attend medical school before entering the professional world.

New Responsibility

Watertown Principals To Pick Own Teachers

WATERTOWN, Mass.—Diverging from the usual arrangement, all applicants for teaching positions in elementary schools in Watertown will be selected by grade school principals, the school board has decided, following the adoption of a new rating system. The school principals have also been placed in direct charge both of their buildings and students.

Most Expensive

Education Cost Tops List in New Jersey

TRENTON, N. J.—Public education tops the list of spending in the Garden State, with charities, hospitals, and corrections coming next, according to the second installment of a report by the New Jersey State Planning Board on the cost of government. The public school bill amounts to 52.3 per cent of the total municipal expenditures.

Money Available

Virginia Allots School Funds

RICHMOND, Va.—The State has begun distribution of $1,634,000 to cities and counties for support of the public schools. The distribution is the second allotment of school funds to go out this session. Richmond will get $85,000.

New York May Replace Regents' Tests, Says Commissioner Graves

SYRACUSE, N. Y.—The house of delegates of the State Teachers' Association went on record recently for the extension of the Tenure Law to the entire State.

A resolution to this effect was adopted, 309 to 254, after an overnight change in the plans of leaders.

The delegates approved resolutions for continuation of State aid to school districts under the Friedman Act, Federal aid to be administered by State and local districts; for opposition to the tax limitation program on real estate groups; for recognition of kindergarten financially by the State, and for co-operation with the regents' investigation of education costs.

Also approved was a resolution to appoint a committee to study forms of liability insurance for individual teachers.

Dr. Frank P. Graves, state commissioner of education, told the Teachers' Association house of delegates that developments in the field of education may bring an elimination of the current system of regents' examinations. He cited aptitude, intelligence or achievement tests and said that "in carrying out many of these endeavors we have had to seek new techniques and to devise various ways of measuring original ability and the results of training, such as intelligence, diagnostic or remedial tests."

Claude J. Kulp, of Ithaca, was installed as president. Vice-presidents include Mrs. Sarah D. Granger, of Cappaqua; William J. Small, of Niagara Falls; Danforth R. Thomas, of Rome, and Margaret E. Hartnett, of Menands. Frederick L. Stone, of Syracuse, was re-elected to the executive committee.

Sober Men Only

Smiling Pictures Banned In Penn State Yearbook

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — No smiling faces will beam this year from the glossy pages of La Vie, student annual at the Pennsylvania State College. After announcing that a formal theme had been chosen, editors of the yearbook ordered all senior men students to supply photographs of sober mien to make their section of the annual "correspond to the appearance of the rest of the book. Broad smiles on faces of the men will be omitted so that the general tone of the senior section will conform to the formal clothes worn."

School's Pet

CLINTON, Mass. — "Napoleon," Carl H. Schmidt's hound dog, makes Mary's little lamb look positively illiterate — for Napoleon has attended Clinton high school here for three years. At present he's "taking" algebra, junior math, and English. Into those classrooms, promptly at the sound of the class bells, he leads the students. Retiring to a corner he sometimes dozes, more often assumes an attentive expression during recitations. He has yet to disturb a class, is seldom absent or tardy and never returns to a room from which he has been expelled by some teacher who "just can't stand dogs."

Student Farmers

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Vocational agricultural boys in the schools of Pennsylvania, Superintendent of Public Instruction Lester K. Ade announced recently, grew a total of 648 acres of garden truck last Summer. Accessibility to good markets through the medium of good rural roads has proved a stimulus to these future farmers and is developing Pennsylvania as one of the chief vegetable growing States in the East, Dr. Ade said.

Federal Help

New Library Service Will Assist Schools

WASHINGTON. — Financed by a special appropriation of $25,000 for the current fiscal year, the Federal Office of Education has set up a library service of its own. Its many duties will include the development of public and school library service throughout the United States, surveys of public school, university and other libraries, co-ordination of library service and co-ordination of research. The Office of Education will assign staff specialists to various school and public libraries.

Barracks Planned

New Quarters Would Cut Student Expenses

NORMAN, Okla.—Barracks for men students similar to CCC camps have been proposed at the University of Oklahoma as a means of helping needy students attend school. Malcolm Baucum, representative-elect from Murray County, backer of the plan, said they could be built for as little as $250 each, with the federal government sharing half the cost. He estimated students could attend the university for as little as $15 a month. Rooms would cost about $7.50 a year and would include bedding and other equipment.

New Course

Ohio High Schools Will Teach Safety

COLUMBUS, O. — The Ohio department of education will introduce a course of safety study in high schools beginning with the next term in February. The course not only will include safety on the highways, but safety in the home and in the school. Parent-teacher organizations have representation on the committee drafting the course.

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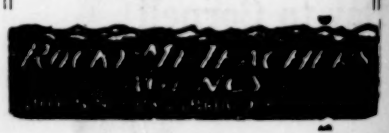

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Budget Dissension

School Group Asked To Curb Expenses

BOSTON. — Although Boston's schools spend as much as the police, fire, and four other city departments combined, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, an independent organization, stated recently the school committee has refused to retrench adequately to meet the serious tax rate problem. This year, the bureau points out, the tax rate is at a record point, despite the fact that $5,000,000 is being borrowed to pay current expenses. The bureau, as a consequence, called upon the school committee to lop $1,240,000 from its budget for 1937.

Fascist Wedge

Teachers' Oath Law Criticized

PHILADELPHIA.—Teachers' oath laws were assailed as being the "entering wedge of fascism" by Dr. Albert W. Palmer, president of the Chicago Congregational Seminary, at a forum held here in connection with the National Preaching Mission program.

Fight Reopens

Married Women Teachers an Issue

SOMERVILLE, Mass. — Married women teachers in the Somerville schools were advised that the School Committee at its next meeting will vote on whether they are to be dismissed or remain on the payroll. Superintendent Everett W. Ireland was instructed to give this notice following a meeting of the committee recently. This action reopens the fight of two years ago to oust teachers whose husbands are employed and able to support their wives. The recommendation for dismissal, made by Edward M. McCarty, chairman of the school board, who led the movement two years ago, was referred to a committee on teachers for investigation. It is said to affect about twenty teachers.

Rift on Anthem

Children Refuse To Stand While Singing

WINNIPEG, Man. — The advisory board of the Department of Education of Manitoba recently sought the advice of the attorney-general as to whether children could be compelled to stand in school while singing the national anthem. Two children of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Thompson were expelled from the South Plymouth school because they refused to stand during the singing of the national anthem. They advanced religious scruples against doing so. E. R. Chapman, counsel for the father, asked that the expulsion order be canceled. After referring the case to the attorney-general, the board expressed the opinion that the action taken by the South Plymouth school was "exceedingly reasonable."

Talk Shop

College Business Executives Meet

NEW YORK.—Business executives of publicly supported colleges and universities in the East, meeting here, told each other: That faculty salary cuts had been restored in half of them and were expected to be restored soon at the others; that although all had collected federal amusement taxes on athletic contests, several had refused to pay such taxes to the government and those which did pay had protested that they were exempted as educational institutions; that it costs more to educate a girl than a boy and one reason for this is that girls use too much electric current in the dormitories through hair curlers, cook stoves, and other apparatus; that a state supported school which operates so economically as to have a surplus at the end of the year invites a reduced appropriation the following year, and that several schools have found "reserve funds" or other names under which to hide surpluses.

Strikers Back

Wellesley Protesters Return to Classes

WELLESLEY, Mass.—The Sprague and Fiske schools, here, returned to their normal enrollment recently as nearly 200 pupils resumed classes after a week's "strike" to protest the doubling up of grades in these districts. Children stayed out to register the protests of their parents against a new system whereby teachers are given two grades instead of only one. With the children back in their classrooms, Superintendent Edwin H. Miner was reticent to make any statement about threats of further reprisals by protesting parents. "We haven't desired all this publicity," he said. James D. Bresnahan, leader of the "strike," and chairman of the advisory committee of the Sprague School Parent-Teacher Association, was firm in declaring that the fight was far from ended. Mr. Bresnahan said that parents are planning to march to the school board rooms and demand the resignation of its three members at their next meeting. A bill of equity will also be filed in the Norfolk Superior Court to restrain the board from continuing the double grading plan.

Essay Winners

Pupils and Teachers Share Safety Honors

WASHINGTON. — Winners in the eleventh nation-wide safety campaign were announced here by the highway education board. Eleanor Sykes, seventh-grade pupil of Emporia, Virginia, schools, earned first national honors. The elementary school teacher who wrote the best lesson on highway safety is Miss Sue L. Miles, Summerville, South Carolina. Miss Ruth E. Jump, elementary teacher of Anamosa, Iowa, whose lesson earned second national honors, will receive $300, while Miss Margaret Clune, Detroit teacher, will receive $200, representing third national honors. Miss Sykes and Miss Miles were guests of the board for a week in New York and Washington. Miss Miles received $500 and the pupil a gold watch.

Gain in Study

Students Doing Better Work Than Before War

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — University of Virginia students are more studious now than they were before the World War, in the opinion of George B. Eager, professor of law, who has been a member of the faculty for twenty-six years, reports the university. Better preparation in high and preparatory schools and in the colleges attended by some of the students before they enter the university is given by Professor Eager as the reason why better work is being done by the men in the university. In last year's law school classes there were 305 men registered of whom 141 had college degrees, said Professor Eager, while of the 204 registered in 1911, when he started teaching, only forty-nine men in the law school were college graduates.

McLean Honored

Decorated by Italian Government for Service

DETROIT, Mich. — Colonel Angus McLean, long-time member of the Detroit board of education, was recently decorated by the Italian government for distinguished service in the field of medicine rendered to the soldiers and other citizens of Italy during the World War. The Italian vice-consul, Chevalier Enrico G. Belcredi, decorated Colonel McLean with the Order of the Crown of Italy, degree of Knight Commander. Colonel McLean has been decorated by practically every foreign government except Russia. During the war he was commander of Harper Hospital Base Unit No. 17.

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World Teachers

Many Americans Will Attend Tokyo Sessions

NEW YORK. — Several hundred American teachers will attend the seventh world conference of the World Federation of Education Associations in Tokyo, Japan, from August 2 to August 7, 1937, Dr. Paul Monroe, president of the world federation and director of the International Institute, Teachers College, Columbia University, announced recently. "The World Federation of Education Associations is a federation of the voluntary teachers organizations of the various nations," Dr. Monroe stated. "The ideal of the federation is understanding and goodwill among nations through the teachers. Its immediate objective is the personal acquaintanceship of the educational leaders of the various nations. Its method is co-operation and conference. Its program is progressive education adapted to twentieth century conditions."

Disbursements Up

Education Board Spends $9,489,358

NEW YORK.—The General Education Board, founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1902, appropriated $9,489,358.31 for educational projects during the year ended June 30, an increase of $1,995,208.28 over the previous year, it was reported. The major appropriations were $1,252,460 for general education, $448,725 for child study, $1,345,735 for educational work in the South and $475,000 for scholarships and fellowships. The board, in its annual report, commended the Federal emergency education projects, which, it said, it had aided for two and one-half years. The government program dealt with the pre-school and post-school years, with vocational and rehabilitation work, with educational aid to unemployed youths and with adult education. During 1935-36, the report added, the board went further in supporting national agencies concerned with the reorganization of secondary education, and attention was given to new movements for meeting the needs of youth from the point of view of the demands of contemporary life.

Dr. George B. Rogers

EXETER, N. H.—Dr. George Benjamin Rogers, director of students at Phillips Exeter Academy, died recently at the school after a short illness. He was sixty-eight years old and had been a member of the faculty for forty-two years, during which he had held important administrative posts.

Literacy Blamed

Husband Learns English, Tires of Wife

CHICAGO. — Mrs. Tillie Osberg, forty-eight years old, testified in her suit for separate maintenance that her husband, Jacob, forty-eight, loved her "until he learned to read and write English. Now he wants an up-to-date wife," she said.

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Grins Between Grinds

Non-Pressing Tailor

A prominent citizen met his tailor on the street one day and asked him why he had not sent a statement of his account.

"Well, you see, it is this way," said the tailor. "I never like to ask a gentleman for money."

"But how about it if he doesn't pay you?" persisted the citizen.

"Oh, after a certain time I come to the conclusion that he isn't a gentleman, and then I ask him."

• •

Bright Idea

Husband—"I locked the car up before we left it and now, darn it, I've lost the key."

Wifey—"Never mind, dear, it's a lovely evening, we can ride home in the rumble."

• •

It Pays

Card in Florida paper: "Thursday I lost a gold watch which I valued very highly. Immediately I inserted an ad in your lost-and-found columns and waited. Yesterday I went home and found the watch in the pocket of another suit. Bless your paper."

• •

Stuck

Smith noticed a quarter on the floor of a big store. After glancing cautiously around to see that no one was looking, he took out his handkerchief and dropped it on top of the coin.

He then picked up the handkerchief, but the coin stuck firmly to the floor. He stood up hastily as he heard a shop assistant approach him.

"Excuse me, sir," said the assistant. "Now that you have tested the powers of our famous glue, would you care to buy a bottle?"

• •

L. O. K.

The wife had been put on the budget plan. At the end of each month she and her husband would go over the accounts together. Every once in a while he would find an item, "L. O. K., $3.00," and a little further on, "L. O. K., $6.00."

Finally, he said. "My dear, what is this—'L. O. K.'?"

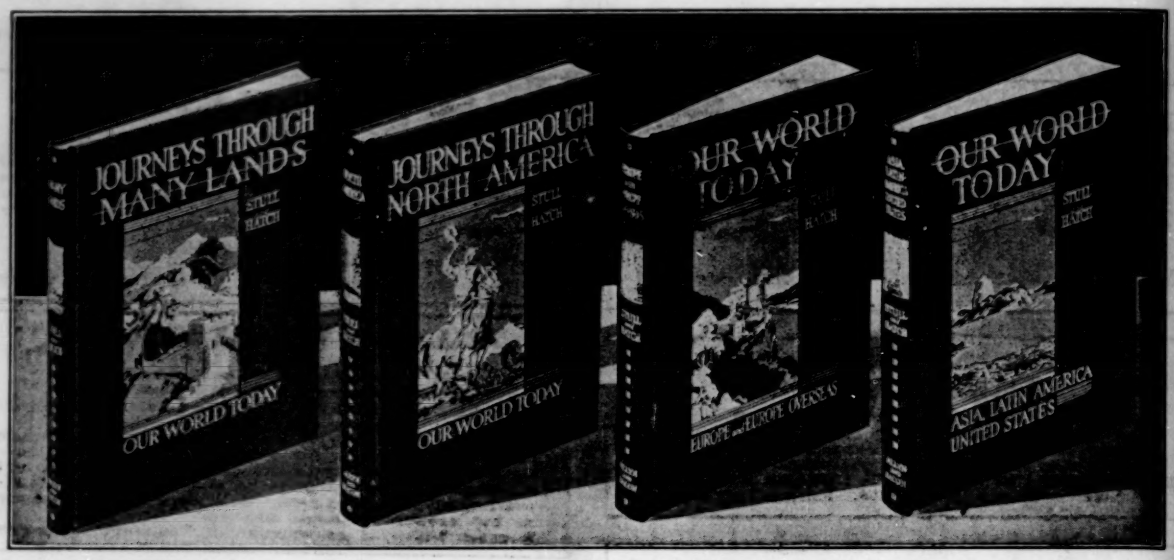
"Lord Only Knows," she replied.

• •

Platform Defined

"Dad, what is a platform?"

"A platform is a declaration of unattainable objectives, so expressed as to arouse the maximum confusion with the minimum sincerity. It is a statement made by politicians with loose memories for consumption by voters who seldom read more than a page of anything unless it has pictures."



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—Froude.

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